

## Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 SR-02

INRE-00 ORM-01 AID-05 FDRE-00 SCA-01 VO-03 INSE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /072 W  
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O R 281348Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1068

INFO USMISSON GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 0852

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMG

SUBJECT: RESETTLEMENT OF VIETNAMESE REFUGEES: SIERRA LEONE

REF: STATE 97854

FOR AMBASSADOR L. DEAN BROWN FROM AMBASSADOR SAMUELS

1. UNLESS SPECIFICALLY RE-INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE, I DO NOT INTEND TO MAKE THE DEMARCHE REQUESTED BY REFTEL. CHANCES OF SIERRA LEONE ACCEPTING ANY SOUTH VIETNAMESE REFUGEES APPEARS ABSOLUTELY NIL, AND IT IS MY STRONG CONVICTION THAT ANY DEMARCHE BY US ON THEIR BEHALF WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE TO OUR OWN EFFORTS TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH SIERRA LEONE AND WILL LEAVE US IN POSITION OF LOOKING RIDICULOUS IN SIERRA LEONEAN EYES.

2. FOREGOING CONCLUSION BASED ON FOLLOWING FACTORS:

A. SIERRA LEONE IS EXTREMELY RACE CONSCIOUS SOCIETY AND WOULD NOT WELCOME INTRODUCTION OF ANY NON-AFRICAN MINORITY GROUP, EVEN IN SMALL NUMBERS, AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE. SIERRA LEONE FEELS IT WAS FORTUNATE THAT, DUE TO CLIMATIC AND HISTORICAL FACTORS, THERE WAS NEVER ANY SETTLEMENT BY BRITISH OR OTHER EUROPEAN  
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COLONIALS, THUS AVOIDING INTRODUCTION OF PROBLEMS SIMILAR

TO SOME OF THOSE IN EAST AND SOUTH AFRICA. SMALL LEBANESE AND INDIAN COMMUNITIES, PREDOMINANTLY ENGAGED IN KEY COMMERCIAL FUNCTIONS, ALREADY COMPRISE TICKLISH DOMESTIC PROBLEM, AND GOSL WOULD WITHOUT QUESTION SEE INTRODUCTION OF ANY NON-INDIGENOUS MINORITY GROUP WHICH HAD NO PLACE ELSE TO GO LATER AS A COMPLICATING AND POTENTIALLY DISRUPTIVE FACTOR IN SIERRA LEONEAN SOCIETY.

B. GOSL SYMPATHIES ARE ALREADY MUCH CLOSER TO NORTH VIETNAMESE AND VIET CONG THAN TO GVN OR TO USG POLICIES AND ACTIONS IN INDOCHINA. TO ACCEPT SOUTH VIETNAMESE REFUGEES AT OUR URGING SIMPLY NOT IN POLITICAL CARDS. GOSL NOT ONLY UNLIKELY BE WILLING TAKE ANY ACTIONS IN THIS FIELD OF WHICH DRV OR "PRG" WOULD DISAPPROVE BUT UNDOUBTEDLY BELIEVES PROBLEM OF REFUGEES IS OUR PROBLEM WHICH THEY HAVE NO OBLIGATION TO HELP US SOLVE. ANY SL HUMANITARIAN INTEREST IN PROBLEM LIKELY TO BE SUBORDINATED TO A SENSE OF SATISFACTION THAT USG HAVING TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM RESULTING, AS GOSL WOULD SEE IT, FROM ERRORS IN US POLICY.

3. IF THERE ANY CHANCE AT ALL THAT SIERRA LEONE WOULD ACCEPT VIETNAMESE REFUGEES, WHICH APPEARS DOUBTFUL IN ANY CASE, ONLY HOPE WOULD APPEAR TO BE THROUGH APPROACH FROM UNHCR OR ICRC. SAMUELS

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**TAGS:** SREF, AEMR, US, VS, SF  
**To:** STATE  
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